The Claims

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. A modular joint implant comprising a plurality of separate implant portions affixable to at least one joint member of a joint and interconnectable thereby forming at least one articulating surface.

2. The modular joint implant of claim 1, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions comprise first and second implant portions.

3. The modular joint implant of claim 2, wherein the least one joint member is a femoral joint member of a knee joint.

4. The modular joint implant of claim 3, wherein the at least one articulating surface comprises lateral and medial condyles.

5. The modular joint implant of claim 4, wherein the at least one articulating surface includes a trochlear groove configured for receiving a patella.

6. The modular joint implant of claim 2, wherein the first implant portion is a medial implant portion and the second implant portion is a lateral implant portion.

7. The modular joint implant of claim 2, wherein the first implant portion is an anterior implant portion and the second implant portion is a posterior implant portion.

8. The modular joint implant of claim 1, wherein the joint is selected from a group consisting of a shoulder joint, an elbow joint, a wrist joint, a hip joint, a knee joint, and an ankle joint.

9. The modular joint implant of claim 8, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions are made from a material selected from the group consisting of a polymer, a metal, a metal alloy, and a combination thereof.

10. The modular joint implant of claim 1, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions are interconnected prior to affixing to the at least one joint member.

11. The modular joint implant of claim 1, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions are interconnected after affixing to the at least one joint member.

12. The modular joint implant of claim 1, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions are interconnected during affixing to the at least one joint member.

13. A modular joint implant comprising a plurality of separate implant portions affixable to at least one joint member of a knee joint and interconnectable thereby forming at least one articulating surface.

14. The modular joint implant of claim 13, wherein the at least one joint member is a femoral joint member.

15. The modular joint implant of claim 14, wherein the at least one articulating surface comprises lateral and medial condyles.

16. The modular joint implant of claim 15, wherein the at least one articulating surface includes a trochlear groove configured for receiving a patella.

17. The modular joint implant of claim 13, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions comprise first and second implant portions.

18. The modular joint implant of claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of separate implant portions includes a layer of a polymer and a layer of a metallic material.

19. The modular joint implant of claim 13, wherein the plurality of separate implant portions are mechanically interconnected.

20. The modular joint implant of claim 19, wherein a screw connects the plurality of separate implant portions.

21. A modular femoral joint implant comprising first and second implant portions interconnectable and affixable to a femoral joint member of a knee joint, the interconnected implant portions forming an articulating surface that includes a section replacing lateral condyle, a medial condyle, and a trochlear groove of a femur.

22. A method of affixing a modular joint implant to a joint member of a joint, comprising:

providing the modular joint implant including a plurality of separate implant portions interconnectable to form at least one articulating surface;

preparing the joint member to receive the modular joint implant;

sequentially positioning the plurality of separate implant portions on the prepared joint member; and affixing the plurality of separate implant portions to the prepared joint member.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising making at least one incision in body tissue proximal the joint, wherein the at least one incision has a width less then a width of the modular joint implant.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising sequentially passing the plurality of separate implant portions through the at least one incision.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the modular implant includes first and second portions which are separate from each other, and sequentially positioning the plurality of separate implant portions includes moving the first portion of the modular implant through the incision into engagement with the prepared joint member, moving the second portion of the modular implant through the incision into engagement with the prepared joint member, and interconnecting the first and second portions of the modular implant while they are disposed in the body tissue.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein interconnecting the first and second portions of the modular implant includes bonding of material of the first portion of the modular implant to material of the second portion of the modular implant.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein interconnecting the first and second portions of the modular includes mechanically interconnecting the first and second portions of the modular implant.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein interconnecting the first and second portions of the modular implant includes interconnecting the first and second

portions of the implant with a member which extends between the first and second portions of the modular implant.

29. A method of affixing a modular joint implant to a femoral joint member of a knee joint, comprising:

providing the modular joint implant including a first implant portion and a second implant portion, the first and second implant portions being interconnectable to form at least one articulating surface;

making at least one incision in body tissue proximal the knee joint, the at least one incision having a width less then a width of the modular joint implant;

preparing the femoral joint member to receive the modular joint implant;

sequentially passing the first and second implant portions through the at least one incision;

positioning the first and second implant portions on the prepared femoral joint member;

interconnecting the first and second implant portions; and

affixing the first and second implant portions to the prepared femoral joint member.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the first and second implant portions are interconnected prior to affixment to the femoral joint member.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the first and second implant portions are interconnected after affixment to the femoral joint member.